

# The Monocacy

# MONOCLE

*Keeping an Eye on Local News*

*A Biweekly Newspaper*

October 5, 2018 • Volume XIV, Number 15



*Frederick's Todd Walker is the man behind the mic. See more singer/songwriter concert pictures in Family Album on page 2.*

## PHS Hall of Famer Dewey Barnes Dies In Drowning

By Rande Davis

Dewey Barnes, a 1986 graduate of Poolesville High School and an inductee into the school's first class of Sports Hall of Fame, drowned on September 3 while boating with friends on the Sassafras River, a feeder river into the Chesapeake Bay on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

The boat outing included four adults and four children. On their return trip, the group stopped the boat to do some swimming. An adult on board noticed a current moving the swimmers away from him and maneuvered to pick everyone up. After everyone was on board, they realized that Dewey was not among them.

It wasn't until the following Monday that his body was recovered by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Police. Barnes, 50, was the owner and operator of Dedicated Fitness, a personal training service

based out of Germantown. He and his wife Mary Livingston were just married this past February. Remarkably, they were childhood sweethearts having met while in fourth grade.

Dewey's physical fitness work ethic began in third grade when he followed his big sister in track and field with UMAC, and into junior high and high school where he continued to excel in track and field with the Firebirds Track Club. Dewey also excelled in basketball and football, resulting in three full college scholarships to play football. Dewey selected a five-year scholarship with Towson State University which provided him with an opportunity to focus on his college studies for a full year prior to playing football. In his senior year at Towson, Dewey was selected co-captain.

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*George Edward Barnes, III (Dewey).*



*Once again, area residents reach out to help hurricane victims. Details in Tidbits on page 7.*



*A warm welcome in a quiet, peaceful place. Discover why and where on page 14.*



*A local paleontologist tells the story of the area dinosaurs. Find out who, when, and where on page 16.*

## The Ghosts of the Monocacy

By Rande Davis

The rich history of the Poolesville area stretches from Native Americans using an old extension of Beall Street as a trail from the Potomac River to deeper woodland hunting grounds going south, to airplane crashes and ejected pilots hanging from trees in a front yard on Peach Tree Road. We've had famous and near-famous Civil War soldiers on both sides of the American divide pass through our town. We have even had Russian spies hide stolen microfilm under a tree on Partnership Road in more recent times. With so much mystery and intrigue, it should not come as a surprise that we also have our share of ghostly tales and other scary legends in and around the town.

Ghosts and stories abound in the area that hosts the nationally top-ranked Markoff's Haunted Forest as it

begins what they think will be their scariest year yet on the Calleva Farm on Martinsburg Road today. A newcomer to this theme this year is the Historic Medley District, guardian of Poolesville's most treasured and iconic buildings. On October 12 and 19, they will introduce their entry into frightful and mysterious local events for this Halloween season: The Historic Deadly District presents the Poolesville Ghost Tour. The early tour at 6:30 p.m. is appropriate for the young crowd; the one at 8:30 p.m. will be more intense.

Professor and folklore enthusiast Christine Rai will lead a hair-raising walking tour through the center of town and will tell the tales of dark histories and chilling hauntings associated with some of our oldest historic buildings.

Continued on page 8.



*Col. Edward Baker haunted Annington more than a century after his death.*

# Family Album



*Comfortably cool fall night, beautiful music:  
What is there not to smile about!*



*The soft harmonies and unique treatment of some cover songs by musical trio, The Common Ground, brought new life to some old standards at the Torchlight Productions fall concert on Whalen Commons.*



*Despite hail, rain, sleet, and snow, the mail always gets through. Mail truck fires don't count.*



*Jeff Feit, owner of Torchlight Productions Recording Studios, based in Beallsville, hosted an evening of talented singer/songwriters.*



*Fans of singer-songwriting balladeers were treated to original music by Torchlight Productions Recording Studios.*

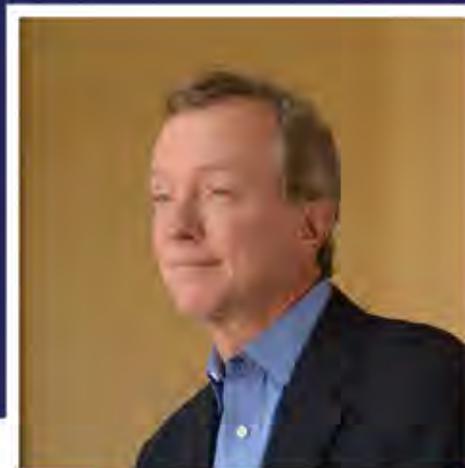


*Attending the 2018 graduation class of service dogs at Canine Connection were Tony Shaffer and his family (Tony serves as a senior fellow at the Center for Advanced Defense Studies). Also joining in the celebration were David Wilson and Tony LaBlanca, Poolesville resident and American actor of films, stage, and television. He performed his award-winning poem of "Just a Common Soldier."*

*For the LOVE of Poolesville!*

# Re-Elect JIM BROWN

*for* TOWN COMMISSIONER



## *Under my Leadership:*

- ▶ Landed our soon-to-come grocery store---The Poolesville Market (and don't forget Tractor Supply!)
- ▶ Community building done right! Increased town events from a handful to over 25 per year!
- ▶ The Town instituted a performance-based plan that allowed ALL of our town employees to earn a living wage and have competitive benefits
- ▶ Put Poolesville on the map as a "Green City"---Municipal Solar Array, Charging Stations, support for Sustainable Poolesville, stronger efficiencies at our Wastewater Treatment Plant
- ▶ Provided leadership on our current master plan which in effect stops future growth of subdivisions outside of our current town borders
- ▶ Established relationships with our commercial property owners and fostered better Town Hall communications to help our business community
- ▶ Pushed to establish and fund our very own Poolesville Area Senior Center
- ▶ Eliminated our annual water/wastewater budget deficit --without raising taxes!
- ▶ Funded and used new technology--like never before--to preserve our neglected and aging infrastructure
- ▶ Secured the funding for the complete makeover of what is now called the Sarah E. Auer Western County Pool (and Splash Park!)
- ▶ Pushed to replace the old town website with our new, modern, and interactive site
- ▶ Led the charge, fundraised for, and helped design our Band Shell at Whalen Commons
- ▶ Pushed for the expansion of our Town Summer Camp---over 160 kids last year!
- ▶ Personally advocated and fought for the acquisition of Dr. Dillingham Park for its current use as a playground, dog park and skateboard park!
- ▶ Established highest-level relationships with our friends at Montgomery County Police, our local politicians and down-county decision makers

ELECTION PLATFORM:  
[poolesville.wordpress.com](http://poolesville.wordpress.com)  
**VOTE NOV. 6<sup>th</sup>!**

***It's been a busy eight years***  
*....and there's more work to be done!*

## Rande(m) Thoughts Being a Small town Is Not Based Solely On Size

By Rande Davis

I was really struck by the opinion expressed in this issue by Link Hoewing. He writes of his concern over our community losing its greatest strength—an underlying spirit of unity based on respect for each other. The man should be listened to. Our most recent grand marshal, Link was chosen due to his remarkable community contributions for nearly three decades; he has been right smack in the middle of our entire recent local history. He would know.

I love Poolesville as much as anyone else. I think about the time I left Poolesville in 1979 to accept a career opportunity in New York City. After five years of the demanding yet exhilarating pace of the Big Apple, I realized that life was more than the hectic and harsh reality of working at Rockefeller Center, two-hour commutes each way, no time for family outside of limited weekends, and I welcomed a chance to return to Poolesville. If “small town” was all I wanted, I didn’t have to come back here. I have never been as awed by our “small-townness” as much as so many others. That’s because I pretty nearly always lived in small towns—even in New York State: Nimmonsburg, Cornwall-on-the-Hudson, New Windsor, Slingerlands, Clifton Park before it grew. Heck, both of my parents came from West Winfield, nestled in the foothills of the Adirondacks, just a short ride to Cooperstown and the Baseball Hall of Fame. If a small town was all I yearned for, there were and are plenty in upstate New York, yet I chose to come back here.

There has never been a time that controversy and strong debate did not exist here. You can read in our front-page story about a man who wanted to develop Poolesville into a fifty-thousand-person planned community. The words flew pretty hotly then.

Here is my main point: What makes small towns great is not simply their size but their community spirit and friendly nurturing culture.

In this issue is a Focus on Business article about Bassett’s Restaurant. I chose to tell their story now because a

customer decided to vent online about an unsatisfactory meal or meals. I don’t argue that his or her experience might not have been the best. After all, even professional food critics seldom write reviews based on only one visit. We all can have a bad day, and we succeed by our overall efforts. The Bassett’s article was to tell what Paul Harvey used to say, “Now for the rest of the story.” The rest of the story is that this iconic commercial business is being modernized, updated, and made better than ever without losing jobs or its historic community contributions. In this town, every business is small, nearly every business struggles with wavering profits. Here is what I think each one of them wants to tell all of you: “If you didn’t like our service (product), please tell us. We need to know to grow. If you liked us, please be sure to tell your friends.” To do otherwise does a disservice to them and our community. The negativity is more than what impacts our political scene, it can even injure our commerce.

In March of 2004, *The Monocacy Monocle* published its first issue. For those who have come to the town more recently, there were three print journals and one online paper covering the news of Poolesville. One of the other papers, originally a delightful community paper, had devolved into nothing more than a weekly diatribe attacking the volunteer government as primarily reckless and irresponsible, driving the town into bankruptcy, and accused of doing things bordering on illegal.

We resolved to do better. We knew the town was better than that. We knew that there was plenty of room for dialogue, discussion, even disagreement. We also knew that, if left unchecked, we could easily slip into something like a vitriolic family feud.

So what makes for a true small town? Here it is as simply as I can put it: Small towns require this essential principle: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” Leave that behind and we become like everywhere else. Size does not matter. Pleasantville? Hardly, we have never shied as a community from having different opinions. The difference is those who truly made a difference in this town were the ones able to disagree and debate with others with respect and courtesy. The beauty is that it creates an environment where true listening can foster. Just think about that.

## Commentary

### Our Friendly Town

By Link Hoewing

I was at a debate between the county executive candidates recently, and a man I did not know approached me. I was holding one of the “Fair Access” signs we are using to promote the idea of building a new high school with co-located facilities for a police substation, senior center, and medical clinic. The man asked, “Are you from Poolesville?” and I answered that I was. He immediately said, “Folks up there are really friendly, really community-minded, work together.”

That’s the way I think of our town, too: a place where people work together and volunteer in many ways to help make a better, stronger community. Yes, we disagree, and we squabble sometimes, but, for the most part, we do so with civility and care for the feelings of others.

Nonetheless, I am growing concerned that perhaps—just perhaps—the incivility, discourtesy, and even mean-spirited attacks we see so often in the world around us today are beginning to creep into our own discussions and activities—and this really worries me.

What do I mean by this? As an example, during the discussions surrounding the Willard property and the proposed development a year ago, I attended many public meetings about the proposal. During most of those sessions, the discussion was civil, informed, and productive.

Online, however, I saw far less civility and even outright attacks on the character or motivations of some of those involved. Not only that, I saw emails that were sent that were even harsher, and some were downright ugly.

During the current local election campaign, I am again seeing some posts and emails that are nasty. Some make assumptions about the motivations of various candidates often based on conjecture or rumors. Some posts and emails make judgements about people based on their occupations or whom they have as allies. Again, the tone of much of this is harsh.

I know we must make decisions about candidates and issues, and we can’t always have perfect information. In some cases, the allies a candidate has do say something about his or her possible views on issues, but that is far different than ascribing bad motivations to candidates or making

Continued on page 13.

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Send it along to [editor@monocacymonocle.com](mailto:editor@monocacymonocle.com)

## Town Government

### PHS Students Brief Commissioners On Plan to Create New Pollinator Garden at Campbell Park

By Link Hoewing

Long-ignored Campbell Park is about to get a makeover due to the proposed plans of two Poolesville High School students. The commissioners were briefed by the two students about their plans at the October 1 town meeting.

PHS students Daniel Geehreg and Michael Beautz, both Global Ecology Studies seniors at the high school, told the commissioners they had developed a plan for a "pollinator garden" to be built at Campbell Park. The park sits at the corner of Wootton and Fisher Avenues and extends behind homes in the Wesmond Subdivision. The park is an odd shape and has never really been used for many activities over the years. The town recently built a new path to connect the corner of Campbell Park to the pathway that extends into Wesmond and ends at Hempstone Avenue; it will facilitate walking traffic by students and residents.

The proposed plan would result in the creation of a large pollinator garden along the pathway in Campbell Park. Such gardens are established to attract pollinating insects and butterflies. Geehreg and Beautz said they are working with Fine Earth Landscape on the project, and the local company will donate the plants and the soil that will be used. Among the plants that will be included in the garden are goldenrod, milkweed, blue-eyed grass, and *Veronica*, all native perennials, so the garden should largely be self-sustaining.

The two students are not only interested in helping sustain pollinating insect populations but see the park as a way to encourage environmental education. They hope to start work on the garden on October 13 and plan to complete it by the next day. They were not asking for any contribution from the town but were simply informing the commissioners about their plan. As might be expected, the commissioners roundly approved of the initiative shown by the students, and town manager Wade Yost said he and his staff have been working with them to move the project forward.

Following the student presentation, Roan Sanders, a co-owner of communications company Telegia, made a presentation about high-speed wireless technology his company offers that he says can help rural residents get good access to the internet. Telegia offers a form of high-speed wireless broadband service using spectrum that does not conflict with that which is used by traditional mobile companies like Verizon and Sprint. He said the spectrum can offer ten megabit speeds or faster, but that the frequencies used do not penetrate buildings or heavy foliage. It requires direct line-of-sight access to customers and, as a result, locating the company's signal transponders on the town's water tower would likely be advantageous.

Sanders said that his company is not at this time formally requesting permission to rent space on the water tower as mobile companies already do.

**Continued on page 26.**

**Continued from page 1.**

### PHS Hall of Famer Dewey Barnes Dies in Drowning

During his tenure with the government as a Grants Management Specialist, and during the time he was employed with Primerica and D.R. Horton, Dewey was focused on fitness. In 2004, Dedicated Fitness Personal Training Services was founded, and Dewey so loved his new endeavor that he would say he didn't "work" another day in his life after that.

In addition to his wife and parents, Dewey leaves son Christian Smith; two sisters, Deirdre (DeeDe) Burriss (William) and Tisha Barnes (Michael Moten); one brother, Evan Barnes; nieces, Staci Brooks, Ayriana Moten, and Kapresha Burriss; three nephews, Ozzie and Donovan Burriss, and Ayron Moten; one great-niece, Marley Burriss; three great-nephews, Xavier and Enzo Jenkins, and Quentyn Wilson. He also leaves eight aunts; three uncles; three great-aunts; one brother-in-law, Brett Livingston (Renee); a father-in-law, Griff Livingston (Janet); one godchild, Sydney Hayden; and longtime friends Chris Hayden and Brian Thomas along with a host of special relatives and friends. In testament to Dewey, the Poolesville Baptist Church was filled to capacity.



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## Ag News

### Daydream Believer

By Lisa Wartfell

Billy Willard remembers sitting in his first grade classroom and being reprimanded for staring out the window. His teacher, who also was his aunt, knew he was watching his dad drive a combine down Cattail Road. Billy wanted to be out in the combine, not at a desk. That feeling still holds true for him today. Billy is the chief executive officer for Willard Farms and, as he sits running the marketing and finance for Willard, he wants to be out in the field with his sons and the other farmers.

Billy says, "I'm privileged to be a farmer in Montgomery County." He loves watching plants grow. Billy says the best part of farming is watching "this little seed and seeing what it becomes." Today, Willard plants corn, sorghum, soybeans, and wheat on over three thousand acres. Those seeds become feed for cattle and poultry. For you "numbers" folks out there, twenty-eight thousand seeds (about one third of a bushel) of corn are planted in one acre. Those seeds then grow up to be over two hundred bushels of corn.

Billy spends time explaining numbers like these and how modern farming works to Montgomery County students and teachers every year. "We've [farmers] done a horrible job at educating the public." Billy wants to change that. He says when farmers embrace informing the public, there is a huge "wow factor." He would like the residents of Montgomery County to have an appreciation for and know more about modern farming.

Most of us do not have a good understanding of what modern farming is, that technology, whether it is in the machinery or in the lab, can help farmers treat specific areas with just the right nutrients. Farmers also use cover crops and no-till practices to protect the environment. Cover crops are planted in fields to prevent the loss of nitrogen in the soil. No-till means farmers do not turn the soil thereby leaving the remnants of harvested plants on the ground to prevent soil erosion. All of this has been key to the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and the aquatic life that reside in it such as oysters and blue crabs.

Would Billy recommend farming? "There is nothing like people in agriculture. Farmers are compassionate, trustworthy, and kind." Graduates of agricultural science programs are highly-sought-after with graduates receiving multiple job offers. This is due to modern farming technology which brings with it jobs in computers, engineering, and research. Billy cautions that farming requires passion, a strong work ethic, and the willingness to sacrifice. During harvest and planting, farmers put in long hours and often miss birthday parties, dinner with friends, or their kids' soccer games. As a farm wife, I quickly learned that the term "harvest widow" really is a thing.

At the end of our chat, Billy shows me a copy of the deed from the original land his family purchased in 1871. Two Willard brothers, Dewalt and Charles, moved from Frederick to six hundred acres near the C&O Canal. A few years later, the C&O Canal went broke, and the brothers began shipping grain on the railroad, which the family continued to do until the 1960s. Charles died and Dewalt's son Harry continued to farm, but the land was so poor, he started a saw mill and a thrashing business, taking a thrashing machine to other farms. Over one hundred years later, Billy wanted to do just what Dewalt and Charles did. He grew up living and breathing farming. He spent days in the combine with his dad and told me, "All I wanted to do was farm." I asked if he wants his grandson Hank to carry on the Willard farming tradition. Billy said, "I want Hank to do what makes him happy." Then Billy grinned and said, "Farming is fun."



*The great, great, great,  
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Dewalt Willard and the future  
of Willard Agri-Service.*

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## Tidbits

### Running with Team Zack Kresslein

Shatterproof, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to ending the devastation addiction causes families, is holding its 5K Walk/Run for the National Capital Area on October 20 in Reston, Virginia. Poolesville residents Mike and Kim Kresslein have formed Team Zack Kresslein in memory of their son who died in January 2018 at the age of 17. All are welcome to join the team to either walk or run, or donate to Shatterproof through the team page. Many other Poolesville residents have already joined this team, which promises to be the biggest and most active team. The event already has over five hundred participants and supports a great cause.



*Dedicated honoree of Team Zack Kresslein, of Shatterproof, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to ending the devastation of addiction.*

### Commissioner Voting Takes Place at Town Hall

Voters wanting to cast a ballot for the two open spots on the Poolesville Town Commission must remember that voting takes place at Poolesville Town Hall, not at district voting places at Poolesville Elementary School and Monocacy Elementary School. If you are uncertain whether you are registered to vote in the Poolesville election, call Poolesville Town Hall.

### Hurricane Florence Donations

With your help, the Town of Poolesville hopes to fill a trailer with cleaning supplies, non-perishable food items, water, and pet supplies. Donations will be going to the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina and to the Colonial Capital Humane Society in New Bern. The trailer will be at Poolesville Town Hall until the week of October 15 and open from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily.

### Food Bank Items Needed:

High-protein canned meals with pop-top cans (ravioli, soups, spaghetti)  
Paper goods and products (plates,

- cups, napkins, utensils)
- Paper towels
- Diapers
- Hygiene products (shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes)
- Hand sanitizer
- Single-service meals that do not require refrigeration
- Single-service snacks
- Peanut butter
- Cleaning supplies and disinfectant wipes

### Colonial Capital Humane Society Items Needed:

- Dog, puppy, cat, and kitten chow
- Dog beds
- Pails
- Mops
- Brooms
- Deck brooms
- Pooper scoopers
- Latex gloves
- Sponges
- Disposable dishcloths
- Scoop Away or Tidy Cat litter

Thank you for your contribution to North Carolina's recovery!

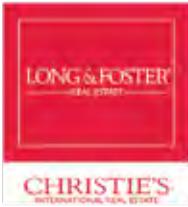
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### The Ghosts of the Monocacy

Early tours are family-friendly and suitable for all ages and end back at the John Poole House, where a bonfire will be waiting (and s'mores and cider, too). Later tours are even spookier and begin with a bonfire at the John Poole House (ages 15+). Tickets must be purchased online in advance by going to their Facebook page. Space is limited, so get them while they last.

Monocle archives show a number of ghostly experiences in the Monocacy area, some of which will be part of the tour. The following tales may be true or simply legendary. We will let you decide for yourself.

### The Ghost Rider of Annington

Historic Annington Plantation is situated on the hillside about a mile east of the entrance to White's Ferry. This proud and stately residence has a great heritage and is one of Montgomery County's grand homes. Carol Caywood first lived there in 1972 and shares the following legend:

The reputed ghost at the estate is Col. Edward Baker, a Union officer who died in the Battle of Ball's Bluff just across the Potomac River from the house. On the night before the battle, Colonel Baker dined at Annington and boasted, "Tomorrow I will dine in Leesburg or dine in hell." Well, things didn't go so well for the colonel, as he became the only sitting member of Congress (he was also Senator Baker from Oregon) to be killed in battle. We don't know if this best friend to Abraham Lincoln (Lincoln named his youngest son after Baker) dined in hell or not, but, we hear he comes back to the house occasionally on horseback. A contractor working there was startled to hear the pounding of hooves racing across the front yard. While the sound was there, neither horse nor rider was visible. At other times, Carol reported that doors would shut and open without any cause.

One time there came a very loud sound of moaning and groaning. While this was one of the most scary events, it was one of the few times an investigation proved successful. In this case, it turned out to be the wind going through an outside drainpipe.

Carol Caywood tells us that there were other incidents involving a young lady ghost who had the habit of hiding female clothes about the house. Missing items would often be found completely out of place. Most of the ghost stories occurred prior to the restoration of the home. After the restoration was completed, the ghostly visits seemed to cease.

### Poolesville Golf Course

Bernard N. Siegel proposed a new planned community of fifty thousand people (similar to Columbia, Maryland) just outside of Poolesville in the early 1960s. The plan called for a full-service country club with tennis, pool, etc. It was also planned to include a bridge that would span the Potomac River to enhance the full potential of the development. Today, the only remnants of his vision are the Poolesville Golf Course and a decaying convention center. When the project failed, Siegel put a bullet to his head, and, every once in a while, it is reported that Bernie can be seen in the upper room to the left of the facility overlooking the course, his ghostly vision of a bridge over the Potomac and a community of tens of thousands of people still haunting us today.

### Frederick Poole House

In this family home of Frederick Poole, son of John Poole, Jr., Colonel Baker's body was returned from the battle field at Ball's Bluff and lay in state in what is now Crafts-A-Plenty. Baker was given the high and most respectful treatment of having Union Army honor guards placed at the front door during a mourning period until transportation to his home could be arranged.

### Old, Old Town Hall—Thrift Shop

Right around the corner from Baker's Poolesville resting spot is the white historic building on West Willard Road that hosts the Friendly Thrift Shop. At the time of the Civil War, it was used as a headquarters of the Union Signal Corp, and the site was also a cemetery. Buried in this small-town cemetery, with very little recognition, are the remains of at least thirty-one young Civil War soldiers. The graves are located in the historic Methodist Cemetery at 17605 West Willard Road in Poolesville.

A partial list of the soldiers interred at the site does exist, and Heritage Montgomery has begun researching their histories. Of the thirty-one buried in Poolesville, fourteen are from Massachusetts, eleven from the 15th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment and three from the famous 20th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment. The 20th Massachusetts was known as the Harvard Brigade because the officers, as well as some of the soldiers, were young Harvard graduates. Among the officers were Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., who was injured at the battle of Ball's Bluff in October 1861, and Paul Revere, Jr.

Not included in the cemetery are the remains of one of the previous pastors

of the church. Former Poolesville "mayor" Spurrier was photographed for a news report about the pastor's body being buried beneath the church.

### The Hall House: Civil War Home across from St. Peter's Parish

Linda and Henry Nessul owned the seven-bedroom Civil War house directly across the street from St. Peter's church in Poolesville. Linda reported a number of incidents that have no explanation. Here are just a few of her ghost stories.

A few months after we moved in, Henry's mom became bed-bound, and we moved her into the house with us. One evening, we heard her talking to someone. We went to check on her and asked with whom she had been speaking. She told us she was talking to the Gray Lady. "The Gray Lady?" we asked. "Yes," she replied. We asked her who the Gray Lady was, and she said she did not know, but the lady was dressed all in gray clothing. We asked her what the Gray Lady was doing, and she said, "Waiting." She added that the Gray Lady didn't talk but just stood at the foot of the bed, and when her feet got tired, the Gray Lady would float a few inches off the floor at the foot of the bed.

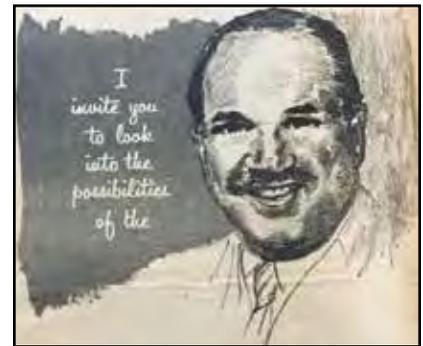
Henry's mom died a few weeks later, and we've always wondered if the Gray Lady was standing watch, waiting for Henry's mom to pass on to the next world.

In a sort of related story, when my dad was very ill and living with us, a few weeks before he died, he told me he saw young men in uniform standing outside his window. I asked if they said anything or if they frightened him, but he said no to both questions. Dad was in the navy in World War II and was attached to the U.S. Marines during the bloody battle of Guadalcanal. Again, I wonder if the young men Dad saw were sailors and marines waiting to bring him home.

### Stang Home in Darnestown

The Stang home in Darnestown is currently owned by the Beck family. Gina reports this history of the home and past reports of a resident ghost.

The stone part of the house was constructed between 1810 and 1820. The addition and current configuration of the house were completed in 1865. The house was possibly an early tollhouse/resting place for people traveling to White's Ferry and was also thought to be part of the Underground Railroad. There was a sleeping loft above the original stone section of the house. The original owner was Oscar Stang. Mr. Stang was also the owner of the general store



*Bernie Siegel wanted to build a planned community of fifty thousand. What if, in place of the Ag Reserve, his development had succeeded? That's a scary thought for the season.*



*Former Poolesville "mayor" Spurrier pointed out the possible location of a pastor's final resting place.*

at the corner of White's Ferry Road and Sugarland Road. The building is still standing though significantly leaning. Mr. Stang died in the house and haunts the house. His primary presence is in the stone room on the first level, although he ventures to other parts of the house. Oscar is believed to be a friendly spirit. His presence has been felt by some visitors as soon as they cross the threshold into the house. We believe it has also been felt by our dog based on his unwillingness to enter the stone room. He was also known to occasionally moan and whine while sitting outside the stone room looking in.

Continued on page 9.

### Local News

## We Love a Party— Especially a Party for Those Whom We Love

By Rande Davis

Let's have a party—for everyone who is celebrating just over a half of a century in October, November, or December. That's the vision of the Poolesville Area Senior Center (PASC). The organization seeks to determine the birthday month of our local seniors so they can throw a party honoring them on a quarterly basis. I know, I know, all of you who have just turned fifty-five to sixty years old have just learned you are now officially on the old-folks spectrum. Welcome to the club.

The organization is incorporating a new event into their lineup of having quarterly birthday celebrations. The first celebration is set for 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 7, at the Family Life Center at 17550 West Willard Road, Poolesville. These events will include live entertainment, and the special guest for this one is award-winning actress and Smithsonian Scholar, Mary Ann Jung from *History Alive*. She will be giving a delightful and educational performance of "Rosie the Riveter." She has appeared on CNN, the *Today Show*, and *Good Morning America*. Refreshments will be served, and all birthday celebrants will receive recognition and a small gift.

PASC invites all seniors and their adult family and friends to come out and enjoy the show and help them celebrate. Reserve your spot by calling 301-875-7701 or emailing pvilleseiors@comcast.net.

Continued from page 8.

### The Ghosts of the Monocacy

#### Mr. Money's Lost Finger

While not a ghost story, it's still scary and weird. When the Money family resided in the John Poole House, Mr. Money accidentally cut a finger off while working in the field around the facility. Concerned that he didn't want to die and go to heaven without his finger, he placed the amputated digit in a jar and buried it in the yard with the instructions to dig it up and, upon his death, place it with him in his casket so he would have it with him on arriving at the other side. Unfortunately, it is reported the family never did find the finger and, to this day, the finger rests somewhere around the yard, awaiting its heavenly reunification with him.

#### Tidbits of Ghosts

We have reports from various Poolesville residents of ghostly stories around town. A historic home in Darnestown is reported to have extensive tunnels that are not only spooky in their own right, but the house is reported to be so disturbed by unexplained noises and furniture moving that no one has lived in the house for decades. Another on Edwards Ferry Road had such strange phenomena coming from the attic, that a local realtor with a potential buyer fled the home in terror and never went back. John Speelman tells us that a house on Mt. Nebo Road is also possessed with wandering spirits capable of moving furniture.



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## Things To Do

### Poolesville Area Senior Center

All events at the *Family Life Center* at 17750 West Willard Road.

**Pickleball:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**Zumba Gold:** Wednesday in gym at 1:00 p.m.

**Mahjong:** Thursday in Room 129: 10:00 a.m.

Now Every Weekend:

### The Blue Hearth Market Weekend

Friday: noon to 8:00 p.m., Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Sunday: 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### October 5

#### UMCVFD Auxiliary Bingo Night

Featuring cash and gift cards as well as door prize drawings. Refreshments available for purchase. \$20. *UMCVFD Firehouse, 19801 Beallsville Road, Beallsville.* Doors Open: 5:30 p.m.; games begin: 7:00 p.m.

### October 6

#### PHS Varsity Sports Home Game

Girls' soccer. Damascus. 2:30 p.m.

### October 10

#### Library Special Event: Constellation Jars—Teen Read Week

Celebrate Teen Read Week; this year's theme is "It's Written in the Stars." Participants will make their own constellation jars. Grades 6-12, no registration required. *Maggie Nightingale Library.* 4:00 p.m.

#### PHS Varsity Sports Home Game

Field hockey. Magruder. 7:00 p.m.

#### Poolesville Planning Commission Meeting

*Poolesville Town Hall.* 7:30 p.m.

### October 11

#### PHS Varsity Sports Home Game

Girls' volleyball. Northwest. 6:30 p.m.

### October 11, 12, and 13

#### St. Peter's Fall Rummage Sale

Household items, clothing, jewelry, linens, crafts, toys, baby stuff, electronics, movies and music, antique/vintage items, pet things, tools, camping, sports, gardening, and more. Thursday: 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to noon.

### October 12, 13, and 14

#### Countryside Artisans Tour

Spend a day in the country on an Art

Gallery/Studio Tour, a free, self-guided tour through the scenic Maryland countryside. Find artist info, tour app, and map at [CountrysideArtisans.com](http://CountrysideArtisans.com).

### October 12

#### Historic Deadly Tours

A ghost trail through the town of Poolesville featuring fascinating ghost stories and legends in historic homes and buildings, bonfire, and s'mores. Starts at John Poole House and Trading Post. Purchase tickets in advance online on the Historic Medley District Facebook page. \$15. Family tour at 6:30 p.m.; tour for teens and more: 8:30 p.m.

#### PHS Varsity Sports Home Games

Boys' and girls' soccer. Kennedy. Girls: 5:30 p.m.; boys: 7:15 p.m.

### October 13

#### UMCVFD Pork and Beef Fundraiser

Pork and beef sandwiches and platters. 11:00 a.m. until sold out.

#### PHS Varsity Sports Home Games

Field hockey. Clarksburg. 10:00 a.m.

Girls' soccer. Seneca Valley. 3:30 p.m.

### October 14

#### UMCVFD Open House

Hay wagon, pumpkin patch, moon bounce, apparatus displays, hot dogs, and more. 9:00 a.m.

### October 15

#### Library Special Event: Books and Bulbs

In celebration of National Energy Action Month, the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection and MCPL are hosting Books & Bulbs events to save you money and protect the planet. Join us to learn ways to save energy, keep money in your pocket, and get rid of old incandescent and CFL bulbs. Receive up to three free LED lightbulbs. *Maggie Nightingale Library.* 4:00 p.m.

#### Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

*Poolesville Town Hall.* 7:30 p.m.

### October 16

#### PASC Special Event: Pizza and Movie Night

Featuring *Battle of the Sexes*, the story of Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs's tennis match. *Family Life Center, 17750 West Willard Road.* 6:00 p.m.

### October 18

#### Library Special Event: Family Storytime

A 25-30-minute program designed to delight children of all ages. Filled with

Continued on page 17.



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# Local News

## Equine Herpesvirus Test Positive Locally

By Lisa Warffeli

On September 21, the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Animal Health program confirmed a positive test for Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) in a twelve-year-old warmblood gelding stabled at a private farm in Montgomery County. The neurological horse was seen earlier that day at a private veterinary clinic in Loudoun County, Virginia and was treated as an outpatient before returning home.

The Montgomery County farm has been placed on an investigational hold effective September 21. There are eighteen horses on the farm in three barns. The positive gelding is isolated from all horses on the farm. The positive gelding was previously housed with four horses in one barn. The other two barns are more than thirty feet away from the exposed barn. Strict isolation and bio-security protocols are in place at the exposed barn with body temperatures taken twice daily. There will be no movement on or off the farm. The attending veterinarians administered to this farm will be notified of the hold order and apprised of the procedures taken to control the spread of EHV-1/EHM.

Signs of EHM include a fever, snotty nose, and paralysis. A nasal swab can confirm the presence of the virus. The only confirmed case was the case reported on September 21. There was a report of two suspicious cases in Frederick, but the tests were negative.

The incubation period for the virus is twenty-one days. Vets have recommended to their clients to keep their horses at home and recommend they do so until October 12, which will mark the end of the incubation period.

Sunlight kills the virus, and we have not had much of that recently. The virus grows in hot and wet conditions, which we have had in abundance this past month.

Hopefully, there will be no further cases confirmed, and the horse trailers will hit the road again to the next hunt, show, or polo match.

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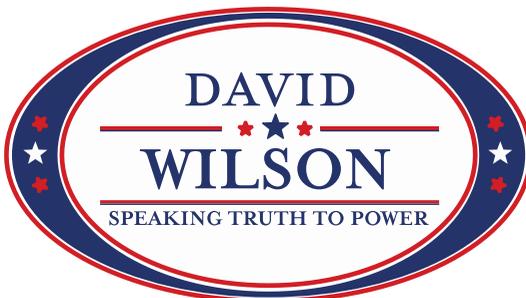
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### Policy Priorities:

- Tax relief for Maryland Seniors
- Funding for the new PHS High School & Multi-Use Facility
- Protect the Ag Reserve

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## Focus on Business

### Bassett's Restaurant: New Times, New Owners, Still a Hallmark

By Rande Davis

Bassett's Restaurant has been a cornerstone of local commerce and a touchstone of community fellowship since 1993. For a quarter of a century, the restaurant has been beloved for its country friendliness, comforting American fare, and as a venue of warm ambience. Only Selby's Market, in its heyday, could have been considered a greater meeting space for residents to occasionally "run into each other," informally updating each other on their lives, and then moving on while smiling to themselves, appreciating this rural community where glad tidings are more than a holiday theme.

Leo and Betty Bassett offered a family-like presence in the community for such a long time, but when Betty passed away and Leo aged, locals found themselves wondering what was to become of this iconic venue. Were we to lose something irreplaceable as we did when Roy and Betty Selby closed the doors to the grocery store?



The new owners of Bassett's Restaurant: Jeff Greenberg and Eric Rose.

Last February, our fears began to subside when Jeff Greenberg and Eric Rose came forward to purchase the restaurant, as they were impressed with its location in the heart of the Ag Reserve. Their vision was clear: Keep only the most popular menu items while adding new and changing menu items, upgrade the venue inside and out, modernize the bar into a pub-like atmosphere with a reinvigorated wine list and craft beers, all the while taking care to make sure Bassett's remains a community-spirited establishment.

Understanding the importance to the community of a locally-hired staff, the new owners chose to keep the thirty-five-person staff in place while they moved quickly to make a myriad of other critically-important changes

Jeff Greenberg's restaurateur career came after establishing himself in a busy enterprise somewhat like StubHub, selling tickets to a variety of special events, named Main Street Tickets. A graduate of Sherwood High School, he has been an investor in the restaurant business for five years, owning the Bracket Room in Arlington, Quincy South in Rockville, Good Stuff Eatery, and We the People.

Eric Rose, hailing from Altoona, Pennsylvania, is a product of the Pennsylvania Institute of Culinary Arts and has been in the restaurant business since 1993, operating food establishments ranging in style and substance, from the Peabody in Orlando, Florida to Miller's Ale House in Florida and, locally, at &pizza in the D.C.-metro area.

The duo has been implementing their plan at a breakneck pace right from the beginning, using local contractors, thereby adding to the number of area residents directly benefitting from the restaurant. A partial list of renovations is impressive:

#### Infrastructure:

They changed the front patio into a full-season room with sound-reducing insulated windows to diminish traffic noise. The room is now ready for a

Continued on page 24.

I believe in the power of public education, and now more than ever we need dedicated leaders to make sure that every child receives a top quality education.



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Continued from page 4.

**Being a Small town Is  
Not Based Solely on Size**

them out to be evil or uncaring. The tone of some of what I have seen runs in this direction.

I was in Congress as a staffer for almost a decade, and I was involved in political campaigns for a couple of decades. When I started in Congress in 1976, I helped staff one of its committees. I worked with many staff and senators over the years, many from the opposite party. We fought tooth and nail about issues and policies, but I can honestly say I rarely saw attacks against someone's character or motivations. Yes, I thought the other party was wrong, sometimes Very Wrong, on policies, but that did not mean I thought that they were bad people. Most of them were not.

Yes, sometimes people do things that show their true colors, that provide evidence that their motivations are impure or are rooted in taking advantage of the system in some way, but until that happens, attacking people's motivations simply because of who they are, who they are friends with, or how they are positioned on an issue is simply wrong. It leads to distrust, anger, and division, none of

which is good for getting things done in a democracy.

Democracy is rooted in finding ways to allow debate and disagreement to flower, but it can't work if opponents distrust each other or even hate each other. It is built on civil disagreement and respect for the views of others, no matter how wrong you may think they are on the merits of an issue.

It can be discouraging sometimes when we see so much divisiveness around us. It can make it seem as if our democratic institutions are failing. The writer and critic Alexander Woollcott once said: "I'm tired of hearing it said that democracy does not work. Of course, it does not work. We are supposed to work it." We must actively work to promote healthy debate and a rigorous but fair and civil discussion about the issues or candidates to make the best decisions possible. You can't do that if you don't trust others who are involved or if you spread rumors or unfounded attacks about them.

I have faith in Poolesville and in our community spirit. I hope we can continue to create the kind of community that makes more people—like the man I met the other evening—talk about how friendly, community-spirited, and wonderful our town is.

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## Local News

### A Lunch That Feeds More Than the Body

By Katie Longdrake

Three days a week, over a hundred students from Poolesville High School head to St. Peter's Episcopal Church. They go there to enjoy a free, hot, delicious lunch and a warm welcome.

"Just Lunch" launched in September 2015. The initial goal was to feed students who were not eating during the day for financial reasons; however, volunteers soon realized that they were not just meeting the need for food; students also come for a warm welcome, a quiet and peaceful place. They want a break from school during the day!

The goals of Just Lunch are simple: The program meets the need of teenagers to eat a healthy lunch. Just Lunch also wants to meet the needs of students for connection and community in our increasingly-isolating world. Just Lunch is not a religious program; all students of all faiths are accepted. The hope is that they feel welcomed and cared for by adults in their community.

Just Lunch is run entirely with volunteers and donations. Over forty volunteers prepare and serve lunch as well as shop for groceries and supplies—and the volunteers have fun helping out. Sue Petro enjoys the camaraderie among volunteers. She also sees the assistance Just Lunch provides. "We assume that families in our community are wealthy, but there are folks who need help." Megan Lane-Cull likes knowing that providing lunch makes the day a little brighter for teens. Sam Hardwick is one of Just Lunch's most faithful volunteers: "I volunteer for Just Lunch because it is a great opportunity to give your time to the community and to make sure the kids have a safe environment to come and relax and feel welcomed." The students are full of smiles and gratitude as they enjoy their meal, the interaction, and the space that is provided for them.

St Peter's operating budget does not support this program which costs on average \$135 a day to fund. Parents and community members have generously donated to help keep Just Lunch going. More volunteers and donations are always welcome. For more information, visit St. Peter's website [www.saintpetersnet.org](http://www.saintpetersnet.org) or give the church office a call, 301-349-2073.



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## Garden

### Proven Winners 2018

By Maureen O'Connell

It is late September, and it is time to do my annual assessment of the season's best performers in my garden. This year, it will be a nostalgic walk for it will be the first time in twelve years that my wonderful sous-gardener Thomas Jefferson, also known as Tom, will not come along with me. Sadly, he died last May. His young apprentice Spencer will be my lone companion through the garden paths.

This year's weather conditions have had a roller coaster run. March and April brought killing frosts; May was hot with above-normal precipitation; June was slightly average; the first half of July was very dry, and the second half ranked as having the second-most rainfall in any recent year. Overall, according to meteorologists at the National Weather Service, the summer of 2018 ranked as the wettest summer since observations began in 1870. Such statistics, you might predict, could be a recipe for an abundance of diseases and insect infestation in flower gardens. As I speak from my own

experiences in my own little Barnesville garden, this has surprisingly been a good year for my garden. There were some definite winners, plus a few okays. Not too bad! Now, I don't attribute this all to my gardening skills (or lack thereof), but to a combination of practices that I have started over the past five or six years. My overall guiding plan is the "right plant in the right place" with our Monocacy weather conditions. It is not a perfect guarantee, but it is a good start, and ignoring it may lead to increased garden maintenance, failure of plants to thrive, and sometimes the death of the plant. This is especially important, as I stopped using any chemicals in my garden several years ago. Some things are not always "better through chemistry." I choose plants that claim to be tolerant of heat, humidity, drought (or above average rainfall with good drainage) and are highly-resistant to most pests, diseases, and infections caused by fungi, bacteria, viruses, nematodes, and other pathogens. This is not a hundred percent guarantee, but it is a good starting point.

Come with me as I walk in my garden and meet this year's winners. The blue ribbon goes to the *Alstroemeria* plant, commonly called the Peruvian lily or lily of the Incas. This is the first



The Peruvian lily, a.k.a. the lily of the Incas: Best for the Monocacy?

year I planted it in my garden. Several times during the year I would buy at Harris Teeter a bouquet of these beautiful flowers. They would come with many different markings and colors, including white, yellow, orange, apricot, pink, red, purple, and lavender.

For a cut flower, it has a wonderful vase life of almost two weeks. I had to have it for my garden, so I bought six of the variety 'Inca Ice' from Wayside Gardens. I planted them in a small garden that received morning sun. Its foliage is beautiful, and they are still blooming in September. Above all, they are completely maintenance free. *Alstroemeria* is a perennial, but the question is: Can it survive our Monocacy winters. Barnesville falls in the borderline Plant Hardiness Zone Map for this plant. I will cut it back to the ground in November and heavily mulch it and cover it with pine boughs. We shall see. Planted in this same garden plot are two David Austin 'Olivia Rose Austin' roses. While I used to have almost one hundred rosebushes, I now have only these two. Several years ago, I reluctantly came to the conclusion that you can't successfully grow roses in our area without resorting to Chemical Warfare. Olivia has surprised me. They are now three years old and have bloomed all summer with no sign of disease or insect damage. David Austin said that this is a rather special rose; he named it after his granddaughter. He also said that it is possibly the best rose that we have introduced to date. I second that.

Continued on page 21

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## In Your Own Backyard Maryland Dinosaurs

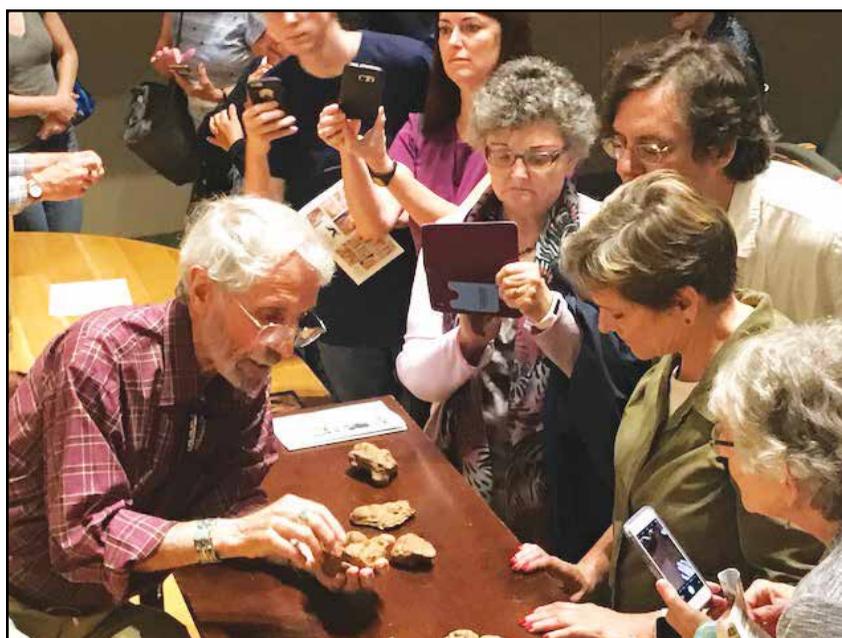
By Jon Wolz

Ray Stanford, a local amateur paleontologist from College Park, invited me to attend a presentation he made at the Smithsonian with Stephen Godfrey, the curator of paleontology at the Culvert Marine Museum in Solomons, Maryland, at the Smithsonian on September 26. The topic was titled "Maryland: A Fertile State for Dinosaurs" and was sponsored by the Smithsonian Associates.

Stephen Godfrey was the first speaker. He described Maryland as being divided into three geographic regions, including the Appalachian Mountains, the Piedmont Plateau, and the Atlantic Coastal Plain. In the area of Cumberland, Devonian period sea fossils that are about four hundred million years old can be found, including brachiopods and bryozoans. Stephen talked about the Cretaceous period that occurred between 145 and 66 million years ago and the Patuxent and Arundel formations found in the Atlantic Coastal Plain. At the Dinosaur Park in Laurel, visitors can do ground searches for dinosaur teeth and bones.

Digging is not allowed at this park and looking on the surface can be tedious. Steven talked about the Miocene Epoch that occurred 17 million years ago. During that time, sharks, porpoises, turtles, whales, clams, and oysters lived in the waters of the Atlantic Coastal Plain. As these animals died, they were covered by layers of silt and sand that preserved their skeletons. These fossil deposits belong to the Miocene Calvert formation. They can be seen at the Calvert Cliffs where once the sea bottom was over one hundred feet above the current water line. Fossil remains of sea animals from the Miocene are now exposed as erosion occurs at the cliffs. The teeth of extinct sharks are most commonly found on the beaches at Calvert Cliffs. Stephen said that whale, turtle, and porpoise fossils have been found. He suggested that the Bayfront Park near Chesapeake Beach can be visited to look for sea fossils. Also, the Calvert Museum in Solomons can be visited to view fossils on display.

Ray Stanford told the story about how he dropped his wife Sheila off at her office after lunch one day at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland in 2012. Across the parking lot a new sidewalk had been constructed where Ray had visited previously at which he found,



Ray Stanford, a local amateur paleontologist from College Park.

among discarded rocks, a small theropod track. On the day he dropped Sheila off, he looked across the parking lot from his car from a distance of about ninety feet and noticed an outcropping of rock near the new sidewalk on a hillside. He went over to investigate and found a nodosaur footprint. Subsequent to that day, in 2012, because a new building was to be constructed, Goddard cleared the

dirt away and found the nodosaur footprint was on a four-by-eight-foot slab of iron stone weighing four tons. Stephen Godfrey was hired to create a mold and cast of the stone slab. In August 2014, at my suggestion, Compton Tucker, a Goddard Earth Scientist and I moved the cast to Ray's basement where he discovered seventy footprints that had been previously

Continued on page 17



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Continued from page 16.

**Maryland Dinosaurs**

undetected, including tracks of theropods, nodosaurs, sauropods, pterosaurs, and mammals. Also found was a node from a nodosaur and coprolites (dinosaur poop). Ray's discovery is unique in that nowhere else in the world has such a diversity of tracks been found in one place together during the dinosaur age. Ray has been looking for dinosaur tracks in Maryland streams in Prince George's and Baltimore Counties for over twenty-five years. He and his elementary school age son first looked for Native American artifacts in streams near their home in the early 1990s. One day, his son held up a stone that had three toes exclaiming, "Dad! A dinosaur footprint!" Ray had replied that there were no dinosaurs in Maryland. Ray bought a dinosaur tracks book by Martin Lockley and then he and his son began finding numerous dinosaur tracks. He found a nodosaur hatchling which is now on display in the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum. Ray showed a variety of tracks he found over the years, including a variety of theropods, iguanodonts, nodosaurs, crocodilians, and tracks he found in coprolites. At the end of the presentation, a large number of the audience came up to the stage to view and handle several of the coprolites he had brought with him that evening. The renovated Dinosaur Hall at the Smithsonian is scheduled to open in June 2019.

I have known Ray Stanford since 2012, and he took me to look for dinosaur tracks for the first time in June 2013 in Paint Branch where I found a nice iguanodon footprint. Ever since that time, I have been hooked on tracking. For my birthday this year, my son Charles gave me a book, *Rockhounding Delaware, Maryland, and the Washington, D.C.-Metro Area* by Robert Beard, in which there is a chapter titled, "Rockhounding Basics" that includes, among other topics, a section on "Health and Safety" that provides tips on staying safe when out in the field looking for rocks.

Continued from page 10.

**Things To Do**

diverse stories and activities that promote and develop language skills and imagination, this program encourages children to develop a life-long love of reading and learning and introduces them to the culture of reading. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 10:30 a.m.

**October 19**

**Historic Deadly Tours**

A ghost trail through the town of Poolesville featuring fascinating ghost stories and legends in historic homes and buildings, bonfire, and s'mores.

Starts at John Poole House and Trading Post. Purchase tickets in advance online on the Historic Medley District Facebook page. \$15. Family tour at 6:30 p.m.; tour for teens and more: 8:30 p.m.

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## Tribute

### Serving the Community: A Family Tradition

By Susan Petro

Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department's (UMCVFD) Station 14's fire chief, Mike Burns is a man who wears many hats. As a twenty-four-year veteran of the navy, Burns wore the hat of a U.S. Navy corpsman and retired in 2008. Burns also wears the hat of a husband and parent of a grown son, a career firefighter for a nearby county; a daughter, also a former EMT for UMCVFD and now finishing up her master's degree in Public Health; and a teenage son who is finishing up his high school years at Poolesville High School. All three children have served in UMCVFD at one time or another. Additionally, Burns wears the hat of a full-time Civil Servant working as the Deputy Director for Naval Medical Logistics Command at Ft. Detrick where he oversees about 205 staff members.



UMCVFD Fire Chief Mike Burns.

Lastly, Burns wears the hat of Station 14's Fire Chief, a position to which he was voted by fellow volunteers after spending many years moving up through the ranks, first as a rookie, and then after completing numerous courses, becoming an EMT, a firefighter II & III, and then a master firefighter. Burns continued taking multiple officers courses and became a lieutenant captain, a certified chief officer, and a battalion chief officer. After two years as a battalion chief, Burns was eligible to become a fire chief.

Burns also serves as a commissioner on Montgomery County's Fire Board representing the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Rescue Association. They meet once a month to evaluate any proposed changes within Montgomery County's Department of Fire Services that might affect the volunteer firefighters. UMCVFD is one of nineteen volunteer fire departments that work in conjunction with Montgomery County's career fire departments and members.

Burns began volunteering for UMCVFD in 2004 as his navy career was coming to a close. He always enjoyed giving back to the community and originally began volunteering for his hometown fire department at an early age until his military career with the frequent moves and deployments made committing to local fire departments difficult.

Once Burns was firmly established in the Poolesville community and ready to retire from military service, he felt the desire to return to volunteering. Burns wanted to give back to the community which had embraced his family so readily. The feeling of camaraderie with fellow UMCVFD volunteers gave Burns the same sense of family as when he served in the military. Both these groups served as surrogate families since the families of Burns and his wife don't live nearby. He always knew his comrades from the department would happily come forward when a need arose. Indeed, when Burns underwent a few surgeries a couple of years back, his fire department family made sure his needs were all met.

Continued on page 20

## A Monocacy Moment



Poolesville Brownie Troop 32008 making fun scarecrows for the 2018 contest at Whalen Commons.

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## Youth Sports

### PHS Girls' Volleyball Begins a New Chapter

By Jeff Stuart

The Poolesville girls' volleyball team has begun a new chapter with Coach Kristie Fourcade. After four games, their record is 2-2, and the schedule has been demanding.

"There is a new coach and a lot more conditioning this year," said senior libero Kristen Yee, "and a lot more working behind the scenes. I think that has been really beneficial to our team. There is a lot of talk about teamwork and team bonding. All of our varsity players are back. We have no incoming freshmen. Ainslee and Sofia are sophomores, but they have a year of experience now and have really grown. Even though we lost to Northwest, I think that was our best game because we played like I have never seen us play before. We were super aggressive and super persistent. We did a lot of good things against the best team in the county. They are three-time state champs, and we played really hard. I am looking forward to the Quince Orchard game. We have sort of had a tradition of beating QO. We didn't do that last year, and I would like to bring that tradition back."



Rear: Sofia Lopez, Ainslee Barger, Michelle Wipf, Bryanna Sellers, and Megan Nee; front: Kristen Yee and Michelle Gu.

"I think we have solid players," said junior Bryanna Seller, "and I think we are bonding more as a team. I was really excited about playing against Northwest."

"There has definitely been more conditioning this year," said sophomore setter and outside hitter Ainslee Barger. "I think we needed that. We play as a team more than last year. It has been more fun. The third set in our opener against Magruder was like a light bulb going off in our head. It showed that we can play really well and compete against high-level teams. That was the case against Northwest as well. All those games were close and hard fought."

"I think the game against Northwest was great," said senior Grace Tang. "We managed to hang with them for all three sets. It was the best we have played. I think that bodes well for us in games against the other really strong teams we have coming up this year."

"I think this year there is a lot more energy," said senior Grace Zheng. "We are definitely more cohesive as a team and ready to meet challenges together. We held up against Magruder in the first match and were supportive of each other. That showed we have potential. We were a little bit intimidated by Northwest at first, but we definitely felt that fighting spirit and hung with them. That was very motivating."

Other seniors are Michelle Gu, Ashley Diller, and Angela Wang. Other juniors are Solomiya Brannman, Michelle Wipf, Megan Nee and Kendall Griffith. Sophomores are Ainslee Barger and Sofia Lopez.

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### Serving the Community: A Family Tradition

Burns believes that his desire to volunteer his services to the community is part of having a giving spirit along with a desire to maintain a family tradition of fire department service. Both of Burns's grandparents took part in building a firehouse in the small town where Burns grew up, coincidentally in the same year that UMCVFD's Station 14 was built in 1946. One grandfather left the department after a work-related move, but the other went on to become the fire chief.

In his early years at UMCVFD, Burns was able to learn from some of the department's most revered volunteers like former Fire Chief Earl Moore.

Burns emphasizes that he couldn't possibly do his job without the help of others, and the fire department always needs the help of the community to maintain its strong presence in the community. "It's always been my belief, when I was in the service, now as a GS Civil Servant with the Federal government, and as a civilian or being the fire chief here: it's a group organization—not just about one person," said Burns who also gives his wife a lot of credit for holding their family together through years of deployments and multiple moves. When the Burnses' oldest son was born in December 1990, he only had a few short days to spend with him before he was deployed to Operation Desert Storm.

Today, Station 14 is a combination volunteer and career firehouse that is staffed by at least six career firefighters twenty-four hours a day and supplemented by about eighty volunteers, both operation and administrative. They work together hand-in-hand. There are three different groups within the department: the Ladies' Auxiliary, firefighters, and EMTs; rescuers who go out on calls; and corporate members. Each group plays a crucial role within the department. Chief Burns's job is to oversee the active, responding members of the department. "I spend about one percent of my time running calls and the other ninety-nine percent taking care of administrative duties."

Burns says one of the hardest parts of his job is having to oversee the sendoffs to the volunteer members who have passed away. The department has an aging population, and numerous revered members of the department have passed on in recent months and years.

"It takes a community, I don't do everything by myself," say Burns who is clearly proud to be a part of this wonderful group of people who spend so many hours giving of themselves to make Poolesville, Beallsville, Barnesville, and all the other surrounding communities in the area the station serves a better, safer area in which to live and recreate.

Volunteers and fundraising activities

are two essential ingredients of every fire department. The efforts of UMCVFD's volunteers and the funds they have raised have allowed the department to purchase many pieces of valuable equipment and offer services like CPR and first-aid classes to the community.

New volunteers of all ages are welcome to apply to the department at [umcvfd.org](http://umcvfd.org). The department needs

volunteers for their many monthly and annual events, to run concession stands for their numerous softball and kickball leagues, to help with administrative tasks, and, of course, to become volunteer firefighters and EMTs.

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## A Woman's Place Is in the House

CDR Richard L. Jurgena, USN, Ret.

There is much talk these days about diversity. Whether of color, ethnicity, or some other readily definable characteristic, it's argued that diversity is desirable for in a democracy all viewpoints need to be represented—and, yet, despite women constituting 51.5% of Maryland's population, there is not one single woman in the state's ten-member congressional delegation.

Does it matter? Attend a PTA meeting, a community association, any of a hundred unsung efforts to fill a need, and you'll find women working to get the job done, so why should they be excluded from the highest councils of government, intentionally or not?

Once-all-male bastions from university faculty clubs to the U.S. Marine Corps now actively recruit women to their ranks. It would be hard to name a major company that doesn't have women on its board of directors—and, yet, our delegation to the institution that represents us and makes the laws that govern us is female free. Where's the outcry from NOW, Code Pink, and Emily's List? For that matter, where are the women voters?

Those on the political Left, who are quick to call anyone who disagrees with them "racist, nativist, or sexist" are strangely silent, as is much of the media. Just the other day, a major Maryland newspaper ran a story lamenting how "women candidates are badly under-represented in races for Maryland's top offices" yet somehow failed to mention that there is a woman running for Congress, perhaps because Amie Hoeber (the nominee for Congress in Maryland's Sixth Congressional District) is a Republican—but, then, she's not just any woman.

A national defense expert, she had worked with top research organizations, including the Rand Corporation, and authored books on nuclear, chemical, and biological defense strategy before President Reagan recruited her to be Deputy Undersecretary of the Army. There, she worked closely with the administration and Congress to strengthen America's national defense, overseeing all army research and development programs and the environmental cleanup of decommissioned bases. One of the highest-ranking women in the Pentagon, she was instrumental in advancing

opportunities for women in the military. On leaving the Defense Department she founded a highly-respected consulting firm advising government and private industry on national security and technology.

Later appointed by President George H.W. Bush to be the U.S. Representative to the Joint Commission on the Environment of the United States and Panama, she worked with international partners to clean up and maintain the health of the Panama Canal.

Today she serves on several corporate boards as well as the board of the House of Ruth of Maryland, which provides shelter and legal support to women and children impacted by domestic violence. She's also a member of the International Women's Forum, and a co-founder and past chair of National Women's Political Caucus chapters.

A graduate of Stanford University, Amie did further study at American University and UCLA. She is also a member of the Harvard University Advanced Leadership Initiative Cohort. Married with children and grandchildren, she enjoys painting, pottery, glassblowing, and ballroom dancing in her admittedly limited free time.

It's an impressive resume, especially as Congress grapples with national security issues in the face of an increasingly-aggressive Russia and China, but not every issue is of global concern. Most hit closer to home: transportation, jobs, and schools are more immediate issues for most people along with the ever-lengthening shadow cast by opioids and other drugs that threaten the well-being of their families.

For the past several years Amie has travelled the 6th District, listening to people as they speak of their concerns. She has not pretended to have all the answers, but she has promised to go to Congress with that same willingness to listen and the same focus on finding answers, no matter from which side of the aisle the answers come, and isn't that how it should be in a democracy? After all, the preamble to the Constitution doesn't say half should govern and half should watch from the sidelines, but that all of us, "We the People," should take part in this great experiment. We in the 6th Congressional District have an opportunity this November to see that all the people of Maryland—male and female—have a voice and a vote on the future of our country.

# RUMMAGE SALE

Thursday, October 11 5pm to 8pm  
 Friday, October 12 9am to 8pm  
 Saturday, October 13 9am to Noon



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Donations Accepted through October 7

PLEASE no furniture of any size, no mattresses, tube TVs, heavy, broken or dirty items

Continued from page 15.

### Proven Winners 2018

It was a good year for many of my workhorse plants: *Agastache*, *Achillea*, *Coreopsis* 'Moonbeam,' *Echinacea*, *Heliopsis* 'Asahi,' Lavender, *Phlox* 'David' (guaranteed, no powdery mildew), *Perovskia* (Russian Sage), *Rudbeckia* (Black-eyed Susan), and all of my Oriental Lilies, especially the beautiful 'Casa Blanca.' Many people acknowledge this to be one the finest Oriental Lilies of all time. Other than deadheading, all of these plants are extremely low maintenance. With all the rainfall this summer, I barely had to water them.

In a previous column, I mentioned that I was experimenting this year with the *Agapanthus* plant. Several years ago, I saw it growing wild on the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa and in Carmel, California. I was determined to grow it in Barnesville, so I bought eight plants from White Flower Farm. I planted four in the ground and four in containers. They are said to be tricky to get to flower, very true. One in the ground flowered once, and one in the pot also flowered, once. Again, the question is: Will they survive our winters? I shall heavily mulch the ones in the ground and bring the potted ones inside.

Where have all the Japanese Beetles gone? I am not complaining, but every year, like clockwork, hordes of them would fly into town on the Fourth of July and eat their way through most of my flowering plants. This year, I did see them, but they stayed only on my four Rose Rugosa bushes. They even ignored Olivia in the next bed. As with all insects, their populations cycle from low to high numbers and back. Maybe our recent cold winters are partly responsible, one advantage I will gladly take.

When planning your garden this winter and early spring and you want it low maintenance, consider the plants I recommended. The older I get, the less work I want to do in the garden. Traditionally, gardens have been based on principles of control—rather than cooperation—with nature, with the result that our gardens become ecological nightmares. This coming year, enter into a new relationship with the natural world. Your backyard garden is not a greenhouse with perfect growing conditions, and you are not its slave.

## WUMCO Help, Inc. Matters

### Celebrating 50 Years of Service

by R. Adam DeBaugh, Assistant Executive Director

#### WUMCO at Watershed Café!

On Thursday, October 11, all who dine at the Watershed Café in Poolesville will also be contributing to helping those in need. Watershed will give 10% of their income that day – dine in or carry out, breakfast, lunch, or dinner – to WUMCO Help. Please mark your calendars and join WUMCO at the Watershed Café on October 11.

#### WUMCO Bake Sale at the Haunted Forest!

On October 12, in honor of WUMCO's 50th anniversary, Markoff's Haunted Forest will be hosting a WUMCO Night. On this night, we will receive a portion of the proceeds from the Haunted Forest. We will also be able to set up some tables in their "town" and have a bake sale to benefit WUMCO. Please bake something for WUMCO! We will be collecting donations at Catherine Beliveau's house (18002 Bliss Drive, Poolesville) on the evening of Oct. 11 and during the day on Oct. 12. If you can bake something for us (cookies, brownies, blondies, rice crispy treats, etc.), it would be greatly appreciated. Please let us know by email at wumco2@gmail.com if and what you can contribute. Do you have a person in your church who could organize folks to bake something for us? Please let them know about this. With huge crowds visiting the Haunted Forest on a Friday night, all we need is inventory, and if you plan on visiting the Haunted Forest this year, consider coming on Oct. 12 to help support WUMCO.

#### The WUMCO Walk and OktoberFest Is Coming – Saturday, October 27

WUMCO Help's Ninth Annual Walk and OktoberFest is coming this month! Start by walking in the 2018 WUMCO Walk on Whalen Commons at noon. Follow this link to download and print a registration form for the walk or come early (11:30 AM on 10/27) to register: <http://www.wumcohelp.org/WUMCOWalkandOktoberfest2018.html>. This walk is held at the beginning of Oktoberfest. Walk for WUMCO, then stay and enjoy a day full of family fun, including costume contests for kids and dogs, crafts and games for kids, food and craft vendors, and a beer and wine tent featuring Oktoberfest beers, hard cider, mead, and wine. Come enjoy this great community event! We need volunteers for the day, too.

It's not too late to sign up for the Annual Scarecrow Contest. Go to [www.wumcohelp.org](http://www.wumcohelp.org) to register.

#### Visit our Web page and follow us on Facebook and Twitter:

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 17550 W. Willard Rd., Poolesville, MD 20837

#### Questions?

Please write Adam DeBaugh at [wumco2@gmail.com](mailto:wumco2@gmail.com) if you have any questions, comments, or ideas for this column.

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## Mystery History

### The Lost Poet Of Poolesville

By Rande Davis

When Vernon Nicholson of Bucklodge Road died in 1995, he named Peggy Horine Kingsbury the executor of his estate because she had been a lifelong friend of the family. Peggy was born in the house on Bucklodge Road directly across the street from Vernon's home, so naturally the two families became close. In fact, the Horines and Nicholsons became so much like family that Peggy always referred to Vernon's parents as Mama Nick and Papa Nick. While others called Vernon by his given name, his real friends and family knew him best by his nickname. Amusingly, his nickname was Nick.

Vernon "Nick" Nicholson was eighty-one when he passed away, and the sad duties of getting the house ready for sale fell to Peggy since she was named executor of the estate. While most of the items in the house were either given away or sold, Peggy decided to keep some old tintype pictures, letters, post cards, and other odds and ends that she found tucked away in the home. The pictures were very old and not of anyone she could readily identify, so she didn't pay much attention to them. She simply put them in a bag, took them to her house, and did not give them much thought for the next ten years.

When Peggy decided to go through the bag, an old, folded news clipping caught her attention. Someone had cut a news article out of a now-unidentified local newspaper. Peggy guessed the collector must have been Mama Nick, but she couldn't be positive, and she was intrigued as to why it had been carefully "hidden away" for well over eight decades. The news clipping was a letter to the editor of an unnamed newspaper. John Will Hall of New York City wrote it.

While the date on the newspaper was inadvertently cut off, it was clear Mr. Hall had been born in Poolesville in 1848. Based on the title of the poem, it also appears his correspondence was some time in 1923. It was also abundantly clear that Mr. Hall yearned for his boyhood town of Poolesville. Mr. Hall had written to request the newspaper print his love poem to Poolesville. We could try to paraphrase his prelude, but his own words, uniquely expressed, do it best:

*Beg to send you an original poem in honor of the little town of my birth and boyhood, asking its publication—including this prelude—in your famous newspaper. Writer left the village when only seventeen years old with sixty-five cents in pocket, raised by his poor but good mother and sister, with sole ambition to make his way in world, that he might help his parents more. Since that September day, in 1865, he has been a self-deported entity, and meanwhile father, mother, sisters, and brothers have lived and died, until only a sister there and writer here are left of thirteen.*

*Upon the occasional visits of latter years, have seen a new Poolesville rising from the dust and cobwebs of the old, and yet clinging memories and tracings of the past. In my heart still beats the love of the old town, hence, this eulogy.*

*Respectfully, John Will Hall,  
New York City.*

All we were able to determine is that his parents were John William and Louisa Veirs Hall who were married on September 30, 1835. Mr. Hall's dad was a tailor. Sadly, our mysterious poet died just one year after writing this poem in 1924.

We can also add to our little mystery because just two days after uncovering this poem, Peggy found another news clipping with yet another poem of his offering. This time it was an ode entitled: "The Wreck of the Titanic." It was dedicated to "the wife who lost husband, mother who lost son, sister who lost brother."

Now, ninety-five years after its first publishing date and without further ado, here is Mr. Hall's ode:

#### The Metamorphosis of Poolesville 1861 – 1923

Say, people, have you heard of Poolesville?  
That place of Civil War fame;  
If not, sit still and listen,  
While I weave its magic name.

First, Poolesville stands for Poole,  
From the earliest stage of its birth;  
And the name and fame of that tribe,  
Make its history of greater worth.

And Poolesville the mother  
of Williams,  
of Woottons, and Whites, and more,  
Old county never nurtured a coward  
Along the stretches of thy  
Potomac shore.

You remember the little  
brick schoolhouse,  
Where the famous Irishman taught;  
And the sting of the reed and  
the ruler,

That our poor little bare hands caught.

The little old brick has passed away,  
And long banished is the rod and  
the rule;  
The great Academy now towers aloft,  
And love is the law of the school.

Do you recall the little old  
brick church,  
Still braving time's havoc and loss;  
Where we sat with our Mothers side  
by side,  
And listened to the story of the cross.

The Amen! corner where the  
Elders sat,  
Solemn visaged as the Raven of Poe;  
They prayed and shouted the terror  
of Hell,  
Til our young hearts quaked with woe

The dear old church stands desolate  
and lone.  
Her walls re-echo the names of  
the dead;  
The great, new church a monument  
of love,  
Where the teachings of Christ  
are spread.

Poolesville stood sentry in the sixties,  
'Twixt the Southern and  
Northern hosts,  
And many raids by the Rebel boys,  
Were made on the Yankee posts.

O! The Ides of October, that bright  
Sabbath eve,  
All ye old folks remember so well,  
Of Doctor Poole the Union  
Colonel said,  
Tomorrow we eat breakfast in  
Leesburg, or hell.

Then bravely marching to capture  
Leesburg,  
Across both ferries to their doom,  
From Ball's Bluff returning all  
battered and torn,  
When the Rebels shot holes in  
their boom.

Men living now—were boys then,  
Who will never forget the Rebel yell,

And the Union soldiers who fought  
and died,  
Carried that Echo with him to heaven  
or hell.

But days that tried the souls of men,  
Were banished by the Angel of Peace;  
And Poolesville rose from the doubt  
and dismay,  
While happiness wrote a new lease.

Thy angle on map gives business  
growth,  
Commerce and fame reach farms  
and hill;  
The merchants push the electron  
buttons of trade,  
With leger-de-main and skill.

Other towns in old Montgomery land,  
Tried to copy the Poolesville creed;  
But Poolesville had her Willards and  
Elgins, too,  
Who showed them the meaning  
of speed.

Then sing a song of the old town,  
Let thy voices with accent rise;  
For the glories of far-famed  
Poolesville,  
And her habitants great, good,  
and wise.

1923  
The Injunction

Thy fathers and mothers asleep in  
the dust,  
Their spirits transmit this message  
to thee;  
Love thy fellow man—keep faith  
with God,  
And live for all humanity.

We encourage our readers to help fill in the mystery. Do you have information or speculation about our author? Do you have questions about things he referred to in the poem? We await your contributions and inquiries, and, not only will fill in the gaps in our next issue, but we will present what remains of Mr. Hall's poem about the Titanic.

## Fun Fact...

**DID YOU KNOW** that Poolesville became a Certified Sustainable Community in 2014 under the Sustainable Maryland program? **DID YOU KNOW** that you can create a certified sustainable garden in your own backyard? The National Wildlife Federation can help. Visit [www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife](http://www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife) for information on everything you need to know about getting certified. It's a great way to get your kids involved with wildlife and nature conservation.

# Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

### Present Crime

**Theft:** 17700 block of Elgin Road, 19900 block of Fisher Avenue, 17000 block of Hersperger Lane, 100 block of Green Tree Farm Drive.

**Vandalism:** 17400 block of Hughes Road, 17300 block of Chiswell Road.

### Past Crime: 1941

Policeman William Crawford saw a car driving recklessly on the Rockville Pike, and he gave chase on his motorcycle. Near the courthouse, he became airborne and landed on the roadway, causing severe injuries to his face and chest. Nevertheless, he flagged down the car of the fire chief who happened to be driving by, and they chased the car several miles until it was stopped. The driver was arrested and charged with reckless driving.

A Washington detective proved that a 1938 murder, previously thought to have happened in Washington, D.C., had actually occurred on a lonely stretch of Jones Mill Road which was known as a popular lovers' lane. The

detective used soil samples from the victim's clothing and sent them to the FBI laboratory and had them compared with the soil on Jones Mill Road, proving his theory. A series of lovers' lane shootings had happened in 1938 and, as far as can be determined, have never been solved.

In the days when the D.C. police dispatched radio calls to Montgomery County units, the radio blared one night, "Respond to 304 Highland Avenue, the woman reports that there is a wild animal in her house." Montgomery County units rushed to the scene to find a flying squirrel causing havoc in the house. One officer obtained a broom, ordered all doors opened, and managed to sweep the animal out of the house.

Sidney Lust, the owner of a chain of movie theaters, announced that admission to any movie on a particular night would be a piece of aluminum. It was only ten days after Pearl Harbor but already the mighty American war machine had swung into business, and aluminum was needed to build airplanes. Lust said that the aluminum could also be dropped off at any county police station, and he would take the patron's word.

Six janitors and one school bus driver were fired after their demand for a twenty percent pay raise was denied. School officials were ready and stationed at the work sites and collected whatever keys the employees carried. It was announced that police officers

would fire the furnaces of the affected schools until new men could be hired.

*Material in this column was obtained from the archives of the Washington Post.*

Would you like to announce a meeting, club, or upcoming event in **Things To Do**?  
Then let us know! Send it along to [editor@monocacymonocle.com](mailto:editor@monocacymonocle.com)

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Continued from page 12.

#### Bassett's Restaurant: New Times, New Owners, Still a Hallmark

delightful experience even in the winter for watching the snow fall or simply seeing a sunset over White's Ferry Road.

An outdoor patio in the rear is now cordoned off to cater to those clients who like open-air dining on a nice day or in the evening and to smoke without impacting other diners. It is decorated with nice lights, flower pots, and attractive fencing.

The tavern section has been painted with a brighter color, offering a more open ambience, the number of chairs and bar stools has doubled, and cocktail tables were added. They have lowered and refinished the bar top to make it more comfortable for shorter people to eat appetizers or a meal.

#### Menu:

Before introducing new items on the menu, care was taken to maintain the most popular local fare. This included country comfort foods like the Poolesville Club, calves' liver, hot turkey dinner, beef stew, Smithswick's Fish and Chips, etc.

Their new fall menu, recently released, continues with one of their most unique food innovations for Bassett's. Their menu now gives the customer many more choices in selecting their order. As an example, they now offer free a variety of nine complimentary sauces for dishes to better please each consumer's varying personal preferences. Even in selecting steaks, it's not simply "how do you want it" as there are more butters, sauces, and even crab cake toppings. Their one-price, build-your-own pizza offers choices in dough, sauces, and unlimited toppings (one of kind each) of varying cheeses, meats, veggies, and drizzle (three different kinds of spices on top).

They have partnered with local resident and owner of Boar's Head, to upgrade their sandwich selections.

They will continue to make changes in menu offerings more frequently as well as offering up very unique weekend specials such as when they offered steamed crabs this summer.

#### Entertainment:

With many more giant-screen TVs, the restaurant purchased the NFL ticket to offer a wider range of football games; on Saturday and Sunday, along with the NFL/college games, they have an NFL pick 'em contest with free prizes.

During the week, on Monday and Friday, they offer Team Bingo games, and on Thursday and Saturday, Team Feud games. Cash prizes have been as high as \$200.

On Wednesday evening on the patio just off the bar, they have local performing artists providing live music.

#### Community Involvement and Spirit:

The new proprietors will continue Bassett's time-honored practice of special ten-percent donation nights for good local causes like WUMCO. They jumped on board promoting community spirit right away during the championship girls' varsity basketball game at Towson University. When the final game had a high cost to stream the game, leaving residents who could not make the game in person in the dark, they paid the cost to stream the game live, and the jam-packed crowd was thrilled to see their girls take the crown. The new owners even lined up free shots to toast the girls once they officially took the title.

Bassett's also sponsored the beautiful murals of the four iconic sites in our area on the eastern side of the building. Recently, when they discovered the Poolesville American Legion wanted to find a more inviting space for their monthly meetings, they immediately offered the separate dining room for its use, free of charge, with no requirement to purchase drinks or food.

Of course, with such a demanding pace for innovation and upgrade, not everything has gone smoothly. The air conditioning needed repair as well as other regrettable surprises.

Recently, a customer, not entirely satisfied with his experience, went on Facebook to become a public food critic. Understanding that no establishment will be right for everyone and, indeed, knowing some nights might have specific and unique challenges, they noted that they appreciate all feedback from customers to make sure they stay on track. Naturally, Eric would always prefer to hear of needed areas of improvement face to face as he is not on Facebook.

Fortunately, Bassett's will remain a significant contributor to the well-being of the community where friends can meet each other. Their goal is remains true to its roots: Provide an enjoyable night out of dining, entertainment, and fellowship.

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Continued from page 7.

Tidbits

**Making the Eagle Scout Grade**

Adam and Kari Auel of Poolesville announced that their son Aidan recently achieved the coveted rank of Eagle Scout. The award came on Adam's birthday, so it was an extra-special

event. The parents are proud of their intelligent, empathetic, and caring son.

**Annual Scarecrow Contest**

The contest of commercial and residential scarecrows held in Whalen Commons through October has begun. Details, rules, and entry forms can be found on the Town of Poolesville's website.



Aidan Auel, our newest Eagle Scout.

Continued from page 19.

**PHS Girls' Volleyball Begins a New Chapter**

In addition to preparing for the volleyball matches, the girls have been working hard in support of the Dig Pink charity which supports breast cancer research. The featured Dig Pink game was held on October 2 against rival Damascus.

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Continued from page 5.

**PHS Students Brief Commissioners on Plan to Create New Pollinator Garden at Campbell Park**

Instead, it would like to send some of its personnel up to the catwalk at the top of the tower to get a good visual assessment of whether the company's technology could work well from that location. If so, the company will return at a later date to propose a rental agreement. The commissioners expressed no misgivings about allowing the company to have access to the tower for that purpose. Yost said he would work with the company to ensure it could make its assessment safely.

With town elections approaching, the commissioners were able to fill the remaining seat on the Board of Elections. Local resident William McDonald was

approved by the five commissioners unanimously to fill the two-year position. With McDonald added to the board, it now has eight members, the maximum number who can serve.

Before the commissioners considered these business items, they heard from David Trone who is running to fill the District 6 congressional seat that includes Poolesville. Trone stressed his business roots, starting a wine and beer retailing company that has grown to be a \$3-billion-a-year business with seven thousand employees. He told the commissioners he knows how to create jobs and said that, in addition to focusing on economic growth, he is very interested in promoting a better education system and medical research. He knows that Poolesville has a major concern with the physical condition of its high school, and he believes connecting local, state, and national leaders is vital to solving many local problems.

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## Celebrating 30 Years of Service

### Dogs Trapped in Abandoned Missile Silo; Lab Stung by a Stingray; and More in Hambone Award Nominees

Nationwide's annual contest will name the insurance group's most unusual claim of the year.

By Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVM, CVLF

*(Adapted from Firstline 360 online articles)*

Voting is open for Nationwide Insurance's Hambone Award, the prize awarded to the company's most unusual claim of the year. The award, which was named after the first winner—a dog that climbed into a refrigerator and ate an entire Thanksgiving ham—comes with bragging rights for the pet and a \$10,000 prize awarded to the veterinary hospital that treated it, according to a Nationwide release. The voting will be open through October 8.

Check out a brief summary of the top six stories below; you can read extended versions and vote at [HamboneAward.com](http://HamboneAward.com). All pets nominated made a full recovery, and their owners were reimbursed for eligible expenses through their Nationwide pet insurance policy.

**Ziva and Zeus**, German shepherds from Medical Lake, Washington, escaped their backyard and went missing for 22 days, eventually being found down a hole in an abandoned missile silo. They were treated for weight loss, cuts, and hot spots, among other signs, at Pet Emergency Clinic in Spokane, Washington.

**Maddy**, a Labrador from Charlotte, North Carolina, found herself in danger after being stung by a stingray during a trip to the beach. She was treated by Cotswald Animal Hospital in Charlotte.

**Cheddar**, the Labrador mix from Fairfield, Connecticut, was hit by a falling chandelier after it was bumped by a family member trying to clear smoke from burning bacon out of the house. Northway Animal Emergency Clinic in Gansevoort, New York, treated Cheddar.

**Zoe**, a Maine coon cat from Miami Beach, Florida, nearly lost her life after falling off a fifth-floor balcony, leaving her with three fractured ribs, pulmonary contusions, and multiple luxations. Knowles Animal Clinic in Miami, Florida, treated Zoe.

**Dottie**, an Irish setter from Irwin, Pennsylvania, fell into a heated pond and received an electrical shock (along with her owner) due to a short-circuiting heater. Allegheny Veterinary Emergency Trauma & Specialty in Monroeville, Pennsylvania treated Dottie.

**Colbie**, a husky from Redlands, California, knocked over a trash can and ate six pounds of cooked chicken, including the bones, after her owner's refrigerator stopped working and they threw away the delicious-smelling treat. Emergency Pet Hospital of Redlands was able to treat Colbie.

Please note these are cautionary tales, and you may want to review how safe your furry friends are at home.



## Poolesville Veterinary Clinic

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